

Our Cloak And Dagger Boys— —More Hits Than Errors?

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WASHINGTON — Russia's success in beating us into outer space has some congressmen wondering — once again — what gives with our cloak and dagger boys.

There is a strong temptation to compile a box score on the postwar years the Central Intelligence Agency has been in business — and come up with a result showing more errors than hits and runs.

Actually, though, it's hard to strike a balance on this controversial organization. This is partly because all the facts of a given situation are seldom known.

The CIA has a convenient method of glossing over its failures. It refuses to talk about them on the grounds of national security.

In fairness to the organization, it must be admitted that it also refuses to talk about its triumphs.

Another factor that complicates the box score is that CIA sometimes gets blamed for something that is not its fault.

The Sputniks are a case in point. Many persons imagine that since Russia won this moon race, it must mean our master sleuths tripped over their own cloaks.

The facts of the case, however, according to some of the best informed Washington sources, are that the CIA knew about the Sputniks a year in advance and alerted the National Security Council with this intelligence.

These sources say the fault lies with the Eisenhower administration, which failed to act on the information.

The CIA has made some glaring mistakes. But it has also scored some successes.

The organization helped bring in the beginning. It was caught napping by the North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1950. And it gave a blunt steer that same year on Communist Chinese intentions.

It advised the President he could disregard warnings that the Chinese would enter the war if the U. N. forces crossed the 38th parallel.

The President let Gen. MacArthur push across the line. The Chinese entered the war, just as the President had warned they would.

There was a shakeup in CIA after this. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith of World War II fame took over as director from Allen W. Dulles came in as Allen W. Dulles came in as Smith's deputy.

Three years later, in 1953, Dulles succeeded Gen. Smith as boss man, the fifth to head up

Central Intelligence since it started functioning in 1949.

Among the successes credited to CIA since Dulles has been on the scene are the overthrow of the Mosaddegh regime in Iran in 1953 and the foiling of the Communist conspiracy in Guatemala in 1954.

Dulles, who is 64, is the warm and jovial brother of our dear secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, 60. Some critics feel it is too cozy an arrangement to have brothers running two of the key agencies of the government.

But they can't deny that the white-mustached, pipe-smoking younger brother had plenty of experience before he moved into the CIA headquarters at 2430 E. St., N. W.

He made a great reputation for himself as our chief OCS (Office of Strategic Services) agent in Switzerland during

World War II, operating an espionage network that reached right into the upper levels of the Hitler government.

One of the things he was in on was the bomb attempt on Hitler's life that nearly succeeded in 1944.

There is nothing sinister looking about this man, who seems more like a college professor than the leader of a group of agents who know all the tricks of an international spy.

His friends say that's why he is such a good agent. He looks harmless as though he had nothing to hide.

Actually, some of the information he gets is so hot it has to be smuggled out of foreign countries on pieces of misshapen concealed beneath the postage stamps on an envelope.

Some of the information is so important it can be given only to the headquarters but

not to the public. — who passes it on with the utmost urgency to the President and the National Security Council.

A new building for CIA is now going up in the Virginia countryside, near McLean, Va., about a 40-minute drive out of Washington. One of its advantages is that it will make it possible to house the whole organization under one roof.

At present, CIA operates out of a cluster of ancient red brick buildings, surrounded by a barbed wire fence in northwestern Washington.

The buildings are old but security measures in operation are the most modern.

The stenography remove the ribbons from their typewriters at night and lock them in safes. All wastepaper is gathered up and burned in an incinerator on the grounds.

You can't move a step inside

the headquarters without an escort who carries a key to the elevators. They are kept locked night and day.

One of the innovations introduced at the CIA after Smith and Dulles took over seven years ago was a system of national estimates on the probable intentions and capabilities of every potential enemy. These are prepared by Sherman Kent, 44-year-old former Yale history professor.

Besides Kent, Dulles has two other key men on his staff:

Charles P. Cabell, former Air Force lieutenant general, who serves as deputy director. Cabell, 54, was in Air Force intelligence before he came into CIA.

Robert Amery Jr., former Harvard Law School professor, off who functions as intelligence adviser to the National Security Council planning board.

Although Dulles has had better luck than the dirty heads of CIA, he has committed his share of blunders.

His brother admitted to a Senate committee earlier this year that the United States was "considerably taken by surprise" when the British, French, and Israelis invaded Egypt last fall.

Allen's latest came when he predicted, barely a month before Marshal Georgi Zhukov got the gate in Moscow, that he had emerged as a growing political force, a potential Napoleon who might lead the Soviet Union toward a military dictatorship.

He appears to be more of a chestnut now these days. "I was relieved," said one of his critics who had occasion to talk to him the other day, "to find that he no longer pretends to know everything."

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